



UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

Programme Regulations 2025–2026

Human Rights

MA
Postgraduate Diploma
Postgraduate Certificate
Individual modules

Important document – please read
This document contains important
information that governs your
registration, assessment and
programme of study



Contents

Important information regarding the Programme Regulations	2
1 Structure of the programmes	4
2 Registration	5
3 Recognition of prior learning and credit transfer	7
4 Assessment for the programme	7
5 Number of attempts permitted at assessments	11
6 Assessment offences and penalties	14
7 Progression within the programme	15
8 Scheme of award	16
Appendix A – Structure of the qualifications	20
Appendix B – Module outlines	22
Appendix C – Assessment criteria	26

Important information regarding the Programme Regulations

About this document

Last revised 13 February 2024

As a student registered with the University of London you are governed by the current General Regulations and Programme Regulations associated with your programme of study.

The Programme Regulations are designed and developed by the School of Advanced Study which is responsible for the academic direction of the programme. The regulations take account of any associated arrangements at the School of Advanced Study. Programme Regulations, together with the [Programme Handbook](#), provide the detailed rules and guidance for your programme of study.

In addition to the Programme Regulations, you will have to abide by the [General Regulations](#). These regulations apply to all students registered for a programme of study with the University of London and provide the rules governing registration and assessment on all programmes; they also indicate what you may expect on completion of your programme of study and how you may pursue a complaint, should that be necessary. Programme Regulations should be read in conjunction with the General Regulations.

The relevant General Regulations and the Programme Regulations relating to your registration with us are for the current year and not in the year in which you initially registered.

On all matters where the regulations are to be interpreted, or are silent, our decision will be final.

Further information about your programme of study is outlined in the Programme Specification which is available on the relevant Courses page of the website. The Programme Specification gives a broad overview of the structure and content of the programme as well as the learning outcomes students will achieve as they progress.

Terminology

The following language is specific to the Human Rights programme:

Module: individual units of the programme are called modules. All modules are worth 20 credits, except for the dissertation which is worth 60 credits.

Core module: a compulsory module that must be taken.

Elective module: a module that is chosen from a number of options.

Dissertation module: a compulsory module that must be taken to complete the Master's degree.

Resume: when you have deferred a module and start studying it again.

Restart: when you have failed to complete a module and register for the module a second time.

If you have a query about any of the programme information provided, please contact us using the 'ask a question' button on the [Student Portal](#) homepage.

Throughout the regulations, 'we', 'us' and 'our' mean the University of London, and 'you' and 'your' mean the student, or where applicable, all students.

Changes made to the programme 2025–2026

The following changes have been made to the Programme Regulations 2025-2026:

The module Women's Human Rights UHM170 will be introduced in February 2026.

1 Structure of the programmes

Qualifications

1.1

The following named qualifications are awarded under the Human Rights programme:

- Master of Arts (MA) in Human Rights
- Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) in Human Rights
- Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) in Human Rights

If you registered prior to 1 October 2018, you may choose to be awarded:

- MA Understanding and Securing Human Rights
- PGDip Understanding and Securing Human Rights
- PGCert Understanding and Securing Human Rights

(Contact us using the 'ask a question' tab on the [Student Portal](#) homepage)

Qualification structures

1.2

The MA Human Rights consists of:

- three compulsory core modules (each worth 20 credits);
- three elective modules (each worth 20 credits);
- one compulsory dissertation module (worth 60 credits).

1.3

The PGDip Human Rights consists of:

- three compulsory core modules (each worth 20 credits);
- three elective modules (each worth 20 credits).

1.4

The PGCert Human Rights consists of:

- three compulsory core modules (each worth 20 credits).

Individual modules

1.5

All modules from the Human Rights programme except for the Dissertation (UHM500) may be studied on a stand-alone basis.

1.6

We may decide that you must successfully complete either one or two modules on a stand-alone basis before we will consider allowing you to register for the PGCert, PGDip or MA Human Rights.

1.7

A maximum of 40 credits can be credited when progressing from Individual Modules to the degree.

2 Registration

Effective date of registration

2.1

Your effective date of registration will be either:

- 1 October if you first registered before the September registration deadline, or
- 1 February if you first registered before the January registration deadline.

2.2

An effective registration date of 1 October allows you to sit your first examination in the following January.

An effective registration date of 1 February allows you to sit your first examination in late May/early June of the same year.

Period of registration

2.3

The minimum and maximum periods of registration to complete the programme are counted from your effective date of registration.

Details of the minimum and maximum periods of registration can be found in the [Programme Specification](#).

2.4

If you progress from the PGCert to the PGDip or MA, or from the PGDip to the MA, your maximum period of registration will continue to be counted from your effective date of registration for the first qualification for which you registered.

2.5

If you start by taking individual modules and then register for the PGCert, PGDip, or MA Human Rights we will give you a new maximum period of registration for the PGCert, PGDip or MA.

Registering for modules

Each module runs for a 14-week study session that begins in either February or September, including a two-week revision period before the final assessment. Refer to [Appendix A](#) to see which modules run in each study session.

To register for a module, you must select it and pay for it by the deadline date. When you register for a module, you are committing to studying the module in that study session, so you should only register for modules that you are ready to study.

All students start by taking the core module, Understanding Human Rights UHM010. Students can choose to take the core module, Translating Human Rights into International Law UHM030 at the same time in the first study session.

All core modules run in both study sessions and elective modules run in one session each year. See the progression rules in [Section 7](#) which state what you must do before registering for (core module) Securing Human Rights UHM020 and the elective modules.

In exceptional circumstances, we may not run a module if an insufficient number of students have registered. This is because we may not be able to provide an appropriate learning experience and/or assessment opportunity to meet the learning outcomes of the module. We will make every reasonable effort to inform you of any such changes as early as possible and to provide you with reasonable alternative arrangements.

2.6

If you register for a core, elective or dissertation module, you must study it when you are eligible to take it in the first study session that it runs.

Maximum and minimum number of modules you can study in a study session

2.7

You do not have to register for any new modules in a particular session if you do not want to. However, note that when you initially register for the programme you must register for (core module) Understanding Human Rights UHM010.

2.8

The maximum number of new modules for which you can register in any study session is two, and the maximum number of modules for which you can be registered in any session, including failed or resumed modules, is three, subject to regulations governing progression.

See [Section 7](#) (regulations 7.5–7.7) for progression within the programme. In order to complete within your maximum period of registration, you should normally register for at least 30 credits per academic year. Note that to complete the MA within the 5-year maximum period of registration, you will need to complete more than 30 credits in at least one of those academic years to bring your total credits to 180 credits.

Individual modules

2.9

You may apply to take up to two credit-bearing modules (40 credits) on a stand-alone basis without being registered for the PGCert, PGDip or MA. If you apply to progress to the PGCert, PGDip or MA and this is approved, you will be credited with any individual modules successfully completed within three years of your application.

2.10

If you wish to take an individual module(s) which requires study of a prerequisite module, you must undertake the prerequisite module first. If you hold an equivalent qualification or are able to demonstrate equivalent prior experience, this should be noted in your application. The Programme Director will decide if this satisfies the prerequisite requirements.

UHM030 is a prerequisite for UHM130.

2.11

If you are permitted to progress from an individual module(s) to the PGCert, PGDip or MA and have not already taken UHM010, this will be the first module you study under your new registration on any of the qualifications.

3 Recognition of prior learning and credit transfer

Where approved, credit transfer allows you to use the mark that you gained from a module completed during a previous registration with us, or with a federation member of the University of London, to contribute towards your final award.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a generic term for the process by which we recognise and, where appropriate, award credit for learning that has taken place at an institution other than the University of London before entry onto a programme of study.

See the [General Regulations](#), Section 3, for more information.

3.1

We will consider credit transfer but will not recognise or accredit prior learning for this programme.

4 Assessment for the programme

Summary table of assessment

Each module is assessed by one or more elements of assessment. The elements of assessment used on this programme are coursework, E-tivity, examination and dissertation. These elements of assessment may in turn comprise more than one item of assessment.

The method of assessment for E-tivities, coursework, dissertations and written examinations is described in the assessment rubric on the VLE.

An examination is defined as an end of course element of assessment that takes place in a controlled environment. You will be given details of how the courses on your programme are assessed, the specific environment or location that is permitted and the time allowed for the assessment. You will be contacted prior to the assessment session with these details.

All examinations are scheduled using an online delivery method. You must ensure that your device is kept up to date and complies with University Computer Requirements. Wherever they are held, all examinations take place on the same dates and at specific times in line with the published timetables.

Coursework

4.1

You are responsible for submitting your coursework to us, and for ensuring that your work is submitted on or before the deadline for that course.

4.2

All examinations are time constrained.

See [Appendix A](#) for the full module titles and the study sessions when the modules run.

4.3

Programme structure	3 compulsory core modules				3 elective modules from		1 compulsory dissertation	
Module	Core modules UHM010 and UHM030		Core module UHM020		UHM110, UHM120, UHM130, UHM140, UHM150, UHM160, UHM170.		UHM500	
Element of assessment	E-tivity	Examination	E-tivity	Course work	E-tivity	Course work	Dissertation proposal	Dissertation thesis
Element weighting	30	70	30	70	30	70	15	85
Item of assessment	Three E-tivities, worth 12%; 12% and 6%.	One three-hour written examination item, worth 70%.	Three E-tivities, worth 12%; 12% and 6%	Two items of course work, each worth 35%.	Three E-tivities, worth 12%; 12% and 6%.	One item of course work worth 70%.	One dissertation proposal worth 15%	One dissertation thesis worth 85%

Participation-based E-tivity

Each module (aside from the Dissertation UHM500) includes a separate participation-based E-tivity where you are awarded marks if you have actively participated in the discussion sessions for that module. See the Programme handbook for more information.

4.4

If you cannot participate in a particular discussion forum due to mitigating or other exceptional circumstances, you should contact the Student Administrator by email. If accepted, you will be recorded as 'participating' for that discussion session. This may be done no more than twice per module.

The Student Administrator can be contacted at MAUSHR@sas.ac.uk.

Passing a module

4.5

You will pass a core or elective module if you obtain a combined weighted mark of 50% or more across all elements of assessment.

4.6

You will pass the dissertation module if you obtain a combined weighted mark for the elements of 50% or more, including a mark of at least 50% in the dissertation thesis.

Taking assessments

See [Section 5](#) for what happens if you do not attend a written examination or do not submit a coursework item, E-tivity or dissertation.

4.7

When you register for a module, you must take the assessments for the module at the first available opportunity and in the sequence given in the Module Timetable on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

4.8

You must retain a copy of all of your submissions to us in the event of any electronic difficulties in their submission to us or return from us.

4.9

E-tivities, coursework and dissertation items must be submitted through the VLE by the submission dates given in the Module Timetable on the VLE.

Deferring assessments for a module

4.10

If after having registered for a module, you no longer wish to study it in that study session, we will allow you to defer taking the module's assessments if you notify us no later than 14 days prior to the final assessment deadline/examination date for the module. You can defer a module regardless of whether you have completed the assessment entry process or not.

4.11

We will not allow you to defer a module if you have taken its written examination, submitted coursework or submitted its dissertation thesis.

4.12

If you defer a core or elective module after you have taken the E-tivities the marks achieved for E-tivities will be carried forward. If you defer a module after failing the E-tivities at your first attempt, you may use your second attempt on resuming the module.

4.13

We will allow you to defer each module once without paying an additional fee.

4.14

You must request our permission to defer a module on a second occasion. If we give permission:

- for core and elective modules: you must pay a new module fee by the deadline date when you resume the module; and

- for the dissertation module: you must pay the dissertation-second-deferral fee when restarting the module.
- the E-tivities marks will not be carried forward.

4.15

If you defer the Dissertation UHM500 on a second occasion, we cannot guarantee continuity of dissertation supervision when you resume.

Penalty for missing a deadline

If you think you may miss a deadline, contact the Student Administrator through the [VLE](#) immediately. See also mitigating circumstances below.

4.16

You must keep to the deadlines stated in the Module Timetable on the VLE. If you are late in submitting an E-tivity, an item of coursework or dissertation, we will reduce the mark you receive by deducting three marks from the original mark for every day that the item is late. Work submitted more than 10 days after the deadline will not be marked. It will count as an attempt at the assessment and will be assigned a mark of zero.

You will lose marks if you do not keep to these rules. For example: all assessments are graded out of 100, so work ordinarily graded at 65/100, but submitted up to 24 hours late, will receive a final mark of 62.

See [Section 5](#) (regulations 5.3 and 5.4) for more information on assessment attempts.

Penalty for exceeding the word limit

You will lose marks if you do not keep to these rules. For example: work ordinarily graded at 65/100, but which exceeds the word limit by 15%, will receive a final mark of 60.

4.17

You must keep to the word limits stated in the assessment rubric which is provided on the VLE. If you exceed the word limit for an E-tivity, an item of coursework or dissertation we will reduce the mark you receive as follows:

Excess number of words over the word limit expressed as a percentage	Marks deducted from the original mark
Up to and including 10%	0
From 11% up to and including 20%	5
From 21% up to and including 30%	10
More than 31%	The work will not be marked. It will count as an attempt at the assessment and will be assigned a mark of zero.

Instructions, word limits and deadlines for submitting E-tivities, coursework and dissertation items are given in the [Programme Handbook](#) or in the Module section of the VLE.

Materials and aids allowed in the examination room

See the Admission Notice which is sent to you in advance of the examination for further detail on what you may take into the examination room. See the [Examination timetables](#) for examination dates and times. See also the [General Regulations](#) for rules about taking written examinations

Mitigating circumstances

For more information about mitigating circumstances, see Section 11 of the [General Regulations](#) and the examinations section of our website.

4.19

You must bring any mitigating circumstances to our attention as soon as you become aware that your performance may be adversely affected by serious circumstances beyond your control. This must not be any longer than three weeks after an examination and not after the deadline date for E-tivities, coursework or the dissertation.

4.20

Under these circumstances if you are unable to meet a deadline you may apply for an extension to the deadline and provide accompanying medical or other independent evidence.

5 Number of attempts permitted at assessments

Number of attempts permitted at an item of assessment

5.1

The maximum number of attempts permitted for E-tivity 1 and 2, coursework item, written examination or dissertation item is two.

5.2

If you obtain a mark of 50% or more for any item of assessment or E-tivity from any module you may not retake that item.

5.3

If you do not submit an E-tivity, an item of coursework or an item of the dissertation it will count as an attempt, you will be given a mark of zero for the item and it will be classified as a fail.

If you do not submit the self-assessment form for E-tivity 3, you will not be permitted a second attempt.

5.4

If you achieve a mark of less than 50% in any of the E-tivities and intend to retake it, you may retake it within 14 days of the E-tivity result release date.

Written examination for UHM010 or UHM030

5.5

When you register for UHM010 or UHM030 you must take the examination element of these core modules either at the end of the study session that you take the module, or at the end of the subsequent session (this will still be considered a first attempt).

5.6

If you do not take the examination in either the first or second permitted examination session, your registration for the module will be cancelled. To restart UHM010 or UHM030, you must pay a new module fee. If you restart a module, the E-tivities marks will not be carried forward. You may only restart these modules on one occasion.

5.7

Restarting the module will allow you two attempts at the examination. If you are absent from the examination on two occasions your registration on the programme will cease.

5.8

If you obtain an overall mark of less than 50% for a core, elective or dissertation module at the first attempt, this will be classified as a fail and you will be required to make one further attempt at the item(s) of coursework in which you obtained a mark of less than 50%.

Where the fail mark is condonable and you choose to progress, the further attempt may not be required (see 5.10).

If you need to retake an examination or resubmit coursework you will need to make another assessment entry and pay the resit or resubmission fee by the assessment entry deadline.

Condonable marks

A condonable fail is where a student has failed a module but attained a mark within a certain range allowing the module to be considered for classification purposes.

5.9

If you are registered on the PGCert, PGDip or MA and receive a mark of between 45–49% for a module (excluding UHM500) you may choose to progress with this condonable mark or to make a second attempt at the examination or item of coursework that was failed. A maximum of 20 credits can be condoned in this way.

If you have to make a second attempt at the written examinations for UHM010 and UHM030

5.10

If you are required to make a second attempt at a written examination or have decided not to proceed with a condonable mark, you must attempt it at the next opportunity. If you first failed the examination in May/June, the next opportunity to retake it is January of the following year. If you first failed the examination in January, the next opportunity to retake it is May/June of the same year. To retake the examination you must make another examination entry and pay the examination resit fee by the examination entry deadline.

If you have to make a second attempt at the coursework for core module UHM020

5.11

If you are required to make a second attempt at one or both of the final coursework item(s) for UHM020 or have decided not to proceed with a condonable mark, you must attempt the coursework(s) at the next opportunity.

5.12

If you first failed the coursework in May/June, the next deadline to submit is end of January of the following year. If you first failed the coursework in December/January, the next opportunity to submit is end of May of the same year.

5.13

To retake the coursework, you must make another assessment entry and pay the resubmission fee by the assessment entry deadline.

Provisional individual coursework results are sent to you by email prior to their official release on the University of London website, following the meeting of the Examination Board.

If you have to make a second attempt at the coursework for elective modules UHM110, UHM120, UHM130, UHM140, UHM150, UHM160 and UHM170.

5.14

If you are required to make a further attempt at coursework for an elective module or have decided not to proceed with a condonable mark, you must submit it at the next opportunity.

5.15

If you first failed the coursework in May/June, the next deadline to submit is end of January of the following year. If you first failed the coursework in December/January, the next opportunity to submit is end of May of the same year.

5.16

To retake the coursework, you must make another assessment entry and pay the resubmission fee by the assessment entry deadline. Submission at the second deadline will count as your second and final attempt.

5.17

If you do not submit the required coursework at the next opportunity, you will have failed the module. You may choose to replace it with an alternative elective module. We will not allow you to restart an elective module.

See [Section 5](#) (regulations 5.20–5.22) for more information on replacing an elective module.

If you have to make a second attempt at the Dissertation UHM500

5.18

If you are required to make a further attempt at the dissertation proposal you must submit a reworked dissertation proposal, in the same study session, by a date specified by us.

5.19

If you are required to make a further attempt at the dissertation thesis you must submit a reworked dissertation thesis in the next session, by a date specified by us, and pay the dissertation thesis resubmission fee.

If you pass at a second attempt your mark will be capped

5.20

If you need to make a second attempt at the final assessment of a core, elective or dissertation module the overall mark given for the final assessment will be capped at 50%.

5.21

If you need to make a second attempt at any E-tivity for a core or elective module or the dissertation proposal then the mark given for that E-tivity or proposal will be capped at 50%.

If you fail a core module at the second attempt

5.22

If you fail a core module at the second attempt your registration for the programme will cease and the Board of Examiners will consider whether you qualify for an exit award. In exceptional circumstances, the Board of Examiners may recommend that a third attempt is permitted.

Replacing an elective module

5.23

If you fail an elective module at the second attempt, we will consider a request to replace an elective module with another. You must make a request using the 'ask a question' tab in the [Student Portal](#) homepage. It will be our decision whether or not to approve a request.

5.24

We will not approve a request to replace an elective module with another if you have already submitted an E-tivity for the module.

5.25

We will approve requests to replace elective modules up to a maximum of:

- one module for which you have not submitted an E-tivity, and
- one module where you have failed the module on the second attempt.

5.26

We will not permit the replacement of core modules or the dissertation module.

6 Assessment offences and penalties

You must comply with the [General Regulations](#), including the areas relating to plagiarism, use of artificial intelligence in assessment, and research misconduct.

See Rules for coursework, projects and dissertations in Section 8 of the General Regulations for regulations and penalties that apply.

Refer to the dissertation section of the [Programme handbook](#) for further details on writing and submitting your dissertation.

Plagiarism

6.1

You must not submit a significant part of the same piece of work more than once. See [General Regulations](#) 7.4 and 7.5 for further details.

If you draw on work from E-tivities or coursework that you have undertaken as part of this programme for the dissertation module, then you must have this approved by your dissertation supervisor and this must amount to no more than 3,000 words in total.

7 Progression within the programme

First modules

7.1

You must register for the core module Understanding Human Rights UHM010 in your first study session. You can opt to register for Translating Human Rights into International Law UHM030 at the same time.

Before taking Securing Human Rights UHM020 or any elective module

7.2

You must have registered for Understanding Human Rights UHM010 in a prior study session before you can register for Securing Human Rights UHM020 or any elective module.

Before taking Topics in International Human Rights Law UHM130

7.3

You must have passed Translating Human Rights in International Law UHM030 before you can register for Topics in International Human Rights Law UHM130.

Before taking the dissertation module

7.4

You must have attempted the examination element or the entire coursework element in six modules and passed at least four modules before you can register for the Dissertation UHM500.

Number of modules you can take in a study session

7.5

If you are not retaking any modules and have no deferred modules, we will allow you to register for up to two new modules in a session.

7.6

If you have one deferred or failed module, we will allow you to register for up to two new modules in the next study session.

7.7

If you have more than one deferred, failed or restarted module, we will not allow you to register for any new modules from the point at which you receive your results and you must first attempt the assessments for the deferred, failed or restarted modules.

Transfer from Individual modules

7.8

A mark or grade awarded for completion of an individual module cannot be used to replace any mark or grade for a certificate, diploma or degree already awarded.

7.9

We will consider the transfer from an individual module to the PGCert, PGDip or MA on a case-by-case basis, upon receiving an application to this effect.

Transfer from the PGCert or PGDip Human Rights to the PGDip or MA Human Rights

7.10

If you are registered on the PGCert or PGDip Human Rights, you may request to transfer to the PGDip or MA Human Rights once you have passed a minimum of two modules.

You can apply to transfer from the individual modules to a qualification, or between qualifications, by logging an enquiry via the *ask a question* tab in the [student portal](#).

8 Scheme of award

The date of award for Human Rights will be 1 August in the year of the last assessment that contributes to the award.

More information on [your certificate](#) and [how to request a transcript](#) can be found on the website.

Marking criteria

See [Appendix C](#) for the Assessment Criteria.

8.1

All assessments will be marked according to the published Assessment Criteria.

Calculating the module mark

8.2

The overall mark for each of Understanding Human Rights UHM010 and Translating Human Rights into International Law UHM030 is calculated by weighting the marks achieved for the three E-tivities (1, 2 and 3) and the written examination item in a ratio of 12:12:6:70.

8.3

The overall mark for Securing Human Rights UHM020 is calculated by weighting the marks achieved for the three E-tivities (1, 2 and 3) and the two coursework items in a ratio of 12:12:6:35:35.

8.4

The overall mark for each of the elective modules, namely UHM110, UHM120, UHM130, UHM140, UHM150, UHM160 and UHM170, is calculated by weighting the marks achieved for the three E-tivities (1, 2 and 3) and the coursework item in a ratio of 12:12:6:70.

8.5

The overall mark for Dissertation UHM500 is calculated by weighting the marks achieved for the dissertation proposal and the dissertation thesis in a ratio of 15:85.

Qualification requirements

8.6

To be awarded the MA Human Rights you must achieve a final overall weighted average mark of at least 50%. Module marks of between 45–49% can be condoned in all modules, excluding UHM500, up to a maximum of 20 credits, provided that the overall weighted average is at least 50%.

8.7

To be awarded the PGDip Human Rights, you must achieve a final overall weighted average mark of at least 50%. Module marks of between 45–49% can be condoned in all modules, up to a maximum of 20 credits, provided that the overall weighted average is at least 50%.

8.8

To be awarded the PGCert Human Rights, you must achieve a final overall weighted average mark of at least 50%. Module marks of between 45–49% can be condoned in all modules, up to a maximum of 20 credits, provided that the overall weighted average is at least 50%.

Mark scheme

8.9

Marks awarded for each element of the assessment of a module and the overall module mark will be rounded to the nearest whole number

8.10

To calculate the final grade for the qualification, the marks for the modules are weighted according to their credit values. Each core and elective module is worth 20 credits. The dissertation module is worth 60 credits.

8.11

The following mark scheme is used for the Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma and MA:

Mark Range	Classification
70% – 100%	Distinction
60% – 69%	Merit
50% – 59%	Pass
0% – 49%	Fail

Merit and Distinction

8.12

To be considered for the award of Merit you should obtain a weighted average mark of 60%-69% across all modules.

8.13

To be considered for the award of Distinction you should obtain a weighted average of at least 70% across all modules.

Progressing to a higher qualification

8.14

If you wish to progress from the PGCert to the PGDip or MA, or from the PGDip to the MA, you must notify us of your intent to do so prior to accepting an intermediate qualification. Should you accept a qualification and then wish to progress to a higher qualification on the programme you will need to return the qualification if we allow you to progress (subject to meeting the criteria in regulation 7.10). At the end of your registration with us, you will receive only the highest qualification for which you have met the requirements.

Exit qualifications

8.15

The Board of Examiners has discretion to grant a PGCert or PGDip Human Rights as an exit qualification to a student of the MA or PGDip who does not successfully complete the qualification for which they registered but who does meet the criteria for a PGCert or PGDip given in the qualification requirements.

8.16

Exit qualifications will be classified according to the table in regulation 8.11.

If you have accepted an exit qualification

8.17

If you have accepted the award of the PGCert as an exit qualification we will not allow you to transfer your registration to the PGDip Human Rights or the MA Human Rights.

8.18

If you have accepted the award of the PGDip as an exit qualification we will not allow you to transfer your registration to the MA Human Rights.

If you have accepted an award

8.19

If you have been awarded the PGCert Human Rights and wish to progress to the PGDip or MA Human Rights, we will consider your request subject to the following conditions:

- You were not awarded the PGCert as an exit qualification following your failure to progress or complete your studies.
- No more than three years have passed between the award of the PGCert and your registration for the PGDip or MA.
- You will be required to surrender the PGCert prior to the award of the PGDip or MA being made.

8.20

If you have been awarded the PGDip Human Rights and wish to progress to the MA Human Rights, we will consider your request subject to the following conditions:

- You were not awarded the PGDip as an exit qualification following your failure to progress or complete your studies.

- No more than three years have passed between the award of the PGDip and your registration for the MA.
- You will be required to surrender the PGDip prior to the award of the MA being made.

Individual modules taken on a standalone basis

8.21

All standalone individual module assessments are marked and graded according to the assessment criteria for the MA Human Rights.

Appendix A – Structure of the qualifications

Elective modules will run subject to availability and not all elective modules will necessarily be available every year. There are two study sessions each year which run from February to June and from September to January. Core modules run in both sessions and elective modules (if available) run in one session or the other. The structures of the qualifications, the module codes, the module titles and the schedule of session(s) in which modules run are as follows:

MA Human Rights

Three compulsory core modules (20 credits each):

Module code	Module title	Sessions in which the module will run (subject to availability)
UHM010	Understanding Human Rights	February – June and September – January
UHM020	Securing Human Rights	February – June and September – January
UHM030	Translating Human Rights into International Law	February – June and September – January

Plus any three elective modules (20 credits each) from a choice of seven options:

Module code	Module title	Session in which the module will run (subject to availability)
UHM110	Genocide, Gross Human Rights Violations and Reconciliation	February – June
UHM120	Securing Human Rights in Development and in Conflict	September – January
UHM130	Topics in International Human Rights Law	September – January
UHM140	Researching Human Rights: Social Research Methods	September – January
UHM150	Human Rights, Sustainable Development and Environmental Justice	February – June
UHM160	Indigenous Peoples, Minorities and Human Rights	February – June
UHM170	Women's Human Rights	February – June

Plus one compulsory dissertation module (60 credits)

Module code	Module title	Sessions in which the module will run (subject to availability)
UHM500	Dissertation	February – June and September – January

Postgraduate Diploma in Human Rights

Three compulsory core modules (20 credits each):

Module code	Module title	Sessions in which the module will run (subject to availability)
UHM010	Understanding Human Rights	February – June and September – January
UHM020	Securing Human Rights	February – June and September – January
UHM030	Translating Human Rights into International Law	February – June and September – January

Plus any three elective modules (20 credits each) from a choice of seven options:

Module code	Module title	Session in which the module will run (subject to availability)
UHM110	Genocide, Gross Human Rights Violations and Reconciliation	February – June
UHM120	Securing Human Rights in Development and in Conflict	September – January
UHM130	Topics in International Human Rights Law	September – January
UHM140	Researching Human Rights: Social Research Methods	September – January
UHM150	Human Rights, Sustainable Development and Environmental Justice	February – June
UHM160	Indigenous Peoples, Minorities and Human Rights	February – June
UHM170	Women's Human Rights	February – June

Postgraduate Certificate in Human Rights

Three compulsory core modules (20 credits each):

Module code	Module title	Sessions in which the module will run (subject to availability)
UHM010	Understanding Human Rights	February – June and September – January
UHM020	Securing Human Rights	February – June and September – January
UHM030	Translating Human Rights into International Law	February – June and September – January

Appendix B – Module outlines

Core modules

Understanding Human Rights UHM010

This module utilises a broad range of approaches from the social sciences and humanities in order to develop a nuanced understanding of human rights and human rights abuses. It aims to provide an insight into some of the key debates and an overview of important literature in this growing area of scholarship. Students will emerge with a deeper and more complex understanding of what human rights are and why they are important, of both their potential and limitations, and of the increasingly wide range of contexts in which they are being applied, used and abused. The first section is entitled 'Ideas of Rights' and is designed to address questions such as what is a right and what are the main critiques of the human rights discourse? Topics covered include an introduction to the history and philosophy of human rights, classical theories, multi-cultural recognition theory, interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary approaches to human rights and universalism versus cultural relativism, environmental rights. In the second half of this module we will look at 'Rights in Context'. This section primarily draws on disciplinary insights from political economy, sociology and international relations. It looks at the structures and processes which provide a backdrop to many current human rights debates, claims and violations.

Assessment: one three-hour written examination (70%) and three E-tivities (30%).

Securing Human Rights UHM020

This module critically examines strategies employed by inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, civil society groups and governmental agencies to secure human rights. It also reflects on and builds skills for human rights practice. It exposes students to the practical work of various human rights actors, the contexts in which they operate, the techniques they use, and the challenges they face. The module includes contributions from human rights practitioners, who will engage directly with the students and via videos. The module is divided into two parts. Section A – Actors and Mechanisms gives students an overview of the role of various key players in implementing human rights, namely the state, NGOs and the UN system. Section B – Skills and Strategies familiarises students with practical abilities needed to run human rights projects such as lobbying; media; campaigning; using a human rights-based approach in project management; and research, monitoring, reporting. The assessment will build skills to analyse advocacy strategies for securing human rights and also give students the opportunity to design their own human rights project and to prepare a funding proposal.

Assessment: two items of coursework (70%) and three E-tivities (30%).

Translating Human Rights into International Law UHM030

This module aims to provide all students – regardless of whether they have a legal background – with a firm understanding of how human rights are translated into international law. The module begins by providing a basic grounding in public international law. Each session introduces foundational concepts in international law and ties these to important debates within international human rights law. The second half of the module builds a critical understanding of the main international and regional human rights systems through which human rights standards are developed and enforced in practice. Students will gain confidence in dealing with and critiquing the law, constructing legal arguments, analysing facts against a legal framework and problem-solving, reading international law materials and conducting legal research.

Assessment: one three-hour written examination (70%) and three E-tivities (30%).

Elective modules

Genocide, Gross Human Rights Violations and Reconciliation UHM110

This module utilises a broad range of approaches from the social sciences and humanities in order to develop a nuanced understanding of genocide and reconciliation processes. It aims to provide an insight into some of the key debates and an overview of important literature in the fields of genocide studies, transitional justice, memory and reconciliation studies. Students will emerge with a deeper and more complex understanding of the concept and law of genocide, the theory and practice of 'reconciliation' and the appropriateness of applying such concepts to key case studies.

Assessment: one item of coursework (70%) and three E-tivities (30%).

Securing Human Rights in Development and Conflict UHM120

In this module, the concepts explored in Securing Human Rights are used to review strategies employed by actors to secure human rights in the context of development and conflict situations, broadly understood. This module also reflects on and builds skills for human rights practice and includes contributions from human rights practitioners, who will engage directly with the students and via videos. The module is divided into two parts. In Section A, entitled 'Securing Human Rights in Development', students will be introduced to the use of human rights-based approaches to development, how international development agencies work on human rights issues, the particular challenges of protecting women's human rights in development, the responsibilities of businesses in human rights protection, and the practice of securing human rights through domestic level capacity building and litigation on poverty-related issues. In Section B, entitled 'Securing Human Rights in Conflict', students will examine the various issues facing human rights officers in field operations, the special protection mechanisms used to safeguard human rights defenders living in (or targets of) conflict, how to address the needs of refugees and IDPs, the particular issues faced by women in conflict and the difficulties of securing human rights in the transition to peace. The assessment will be practice-based and students will be asked to write a policy paper on a key topic in development or conflict.

Assessment: one item of coursework (70%) and three E-tivities (30%).

Topics in International Human Rights Law UHM130

Building on the prerequisite module on Translating Human Rights in International Law UHM030, this module aims to develop a more advanced legal understanding around a broad range of crucially important aspects of human rights principles and practice. The module is divided into two parts. Section A – Securing Social Justice through Human Rights Law – explores how international law engages with key questions of social justice that go to the very heart of the discipline, ranging from the principle of equality to economic, social and cultural rights, the human rights of women and the growing field of business and human rights. Section B – Securing Human Rights during Armed Conflict – focuses on how law seeks to protect human dignity during armed conflict and other public emergencies, including an introduction to International Humanitarian Law, and international law on refugees and internally displaced persons.

Assessment: one item of coursework (70%) and three E-tivities (30%).

Prerequisite: Translating Human Rights in International Law UHM030.

Researching Human Rights: Social Science Research Methods UHM140

This module will introduce students to the theories and methods of qualitative social sciences research and how they can be applied to the study of human rights. It will assist students in developing skills for understanding and evaluating the process and outcomes of applied research. Students will reflect on the theoretical context, key concepts and tools of social sciences research in order to articulate a critical perspective on human rights. Students will learn how to identify a range of ethical issues and how to overcome them, understand how qualitative data is collected, analysed, interpreted, appreciate how quantitative and qualitative methods can be combined in interdisciplinary human rights research and articulate methodological steps for Human Rights Impact Assessments. This module is particularly recommended for students interested to pursue further study at PhD level or to develop a career conducting human rights research.

Assessment: one item of coursework (70%) and three E-tivities (30%).

Human Rights, Sustainable Development and Environmental Justice UHM150

This module will equip students to understand the conceptual, legal and practice-based links of human rights with development and environmental justice. Section A entitled 'Understanding human rights, development and sustainable development' will explore the historical development, linkages and frameworks of development, sustainable development and human rights. Students will be introduced to the historical developments and trends in development approaches, the human rights-based approach to development, key human rights frameworks and mechanisms, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Section B entitled 'Resource scarcity, energy and corporate power' focuses on the interconnected nature of the limits to growth, planetary boundaries and our continued reliance on fossil fuels, even to produce renewable energy, and how this impacts a sustainable development agenda. The module will also investigate the increasing role of the private sector in development and the attendant 'externalities' and social and environmental harms it produces. It will critically assess the tools for monitoring private sector respect for human rights, and evaluate voluntary and non-voluntary approaches. Finally, the module will consider the merits of the proposed international crime of ecocide and its potential to facilitate sustainable development and greater respect for human rights.

Assessment: one item of coursework (70%) and three E-tivities (30%).

Indigenous Peoples, Minorities and Human Rights UHM160

This module will investigate key historical and contemporary human rights issues faced by indigenous peoples and ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities that emanate from the relationship they have with the states in which they live, other communities and the international system. The module will look at how communities have socially mobilised, how they have framed their identities strategically, and issues of intersectionality. The modules will further look into how indigenous peoples and minorities are protected by international human rights law, considering the rights that have been established, the jurisprudence that has been developed, and the mechanisms for implementation that are currently used in practice. The module will also provide a space for consideration of contemporary challenges relating to political participation, economic and social rights, aspects of racial discrimination, such as hate speech, natural resources and land rights, and other matters that affect indigenous peoples and minorities. The assessment will include an opportunity to prepare a report to a UN body on the rights of a specific indigenous or minority group.

Assessment: one item of coursework (70%) and three E-tivities (30%).

Women's Human Rights UHM170

This module will provide an inter-disciplinary examination of contemporary challenges for the protection of women's human rights. The module will begin with a foundation in key legal principles and feminist theory to establish a baseline of understanding of major concepts relevant to the study of women's rights, including gender, intersectionality, and substantive equality and non-discrimination. The international normative and institutional architecture of women's rights will then be explored, with a particular focus on international hard and soft legal instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and applicable regional standards. The second part of the module will delve into major themes of women's human rights, including violence against women, cultural relativism, social and economic rights, sexual and reproductive rights, and women's rights in conflict situations.

Assessment: one item of coursework (70%) and three E-tivities (30%).

Dissertation UHM500

The dissertation is a key part of the MA programme, and builds independent research skills through three components. This module includes a 'conducting human rights research' taught element, the submission of a research proposal and the submission of a final dissertation. The 'conducting human rights research' component will help students to develop the skills and knowledge that will be used to construct a research proposal and to undertake a substantial piece of independent research in the human rights field for the dissertation. Once the dissertation topic is approved, the MA programme staff will endeavour to provide a specialist in the topic chosen by the student to supervise the dissertation research.

Assessment: one dissertation proposal (15%) and one dissertation thesis (85%).

Appendix C – Assessment criteria

Assessment Criteria for coursework, dissertations, E-tivities and examinations

The following criteria will be used in determining marks for coursework, dissertations, E-tivities (excluding the participation-based E-tivity) and examinations. Final marks will be reduced if there are word-count and lateness penalties. All final marks are approved by the Board of Examiners.

Mark	Criteria
80-100 Distinction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very significant ability to plan, organise and execute independently a research project or coursework assignment. • Very significant ability to evaluate literature and theory critically and make informed judgements. • Very high levels of creativity, originality and independence of thought. • Very significant ability to evaluate critically existing methodologies and suggest new approaches to current research or professional practice. • Very significant ability to analyse data critically. • Outstanding levels of accuracy, technical competence, organisation, expression.
70-79 Distinction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant ability to plan, organise and execute independently a research project or coursework assignment. • Clear evidence of wide and relevant reading, referencing and an engagement with the conceptual issues. • Capacity to develop a sophisticated and intelligent argument. • Rigorous use and a sophisticated understanding of relevant source materials, balancing appropriately between factual detail and key theoretical issues. Materials are evaluated directly and their assumptions and arguments challenged and/or appraised. • Correct referencing. • Significant ability to analyse data critically. • Original thinking and a willingness to take risks.
60-69 Merit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to plan, organise and execute independently a research project or coursework assignment. • Strong evidence of critical insight and thinking. • A detailed understanding of the major factual and/or theoretical issues and directly engages with the relevant literature on the topic. • Clear evidence of planning and appropriate choice of sources and methodology with correct referencing. • Ability to analyse data critically.

Mark	Criteria
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity to develop a focussed and clear argument and articulate clearly and convincingly a sustained train of logical thought.
50-59 Pass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to plan, organise and execute a research project or coursework assignment. A reasonable understanding of the major factual and/or theoretical issues involved. Evidence of some knowledge of the literature with correct referencing. Ability to analyse data. Shows examples of a clear train of thought or argument. The text is introduced and concludes appropriately.
45-49 Condonable Fail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Fail will be awarded in cases in which there is: Limited ability to plan, organise and execute a research project or coursework assignment. Some awareness and understanding of the literature and of factual or theoretical issues, but with little development. Limited ability to analyse data. Incomplete referencing. Limited ability to present a clear and coherent argument.
20-44 Fail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Fail will be awarded in cases in which there is: Very limited ability to plan, organise and execute a research project or coursework assignment. Fails to develop a coherent argument that relates to the research project or assignment. Does not engage with the relevant literature or demonstrate a knowledge of the key issues. Incomplete referencing. Contains clear conceptual or factual errors or misunderstandings. Only fragmentary evidence of critical thought or data analysis.
0-19 Fail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Fail will be awarded in cases which: No demonstrable ability to plan, organise and execute a research project or coursework assignment. Little or no knowledge or understanding related to the research project or assignment. Little or no knowledge of the relevant literature. Major errors in referencing.

Mark	Criteria
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No evidence of critical thought or data analysis.• Incoherent argument.

Assessment Criteria for the participation-based E-tivity

This E-tivity is worth 6% of each module, excluding the dissertation module. Marks are awarded on a pass or fail basis. If students are given a mark of zero at a first attempt, they will be permitted a second attempt with a grade capped at 50%. Students that do not make a first attempt at E-tivity 3 will not be permitted a second attempt.

A student will be granted all of the allocated marks for the E-tivity if they actively participate in a timely manner in at least 7 of the 10 discussion forums of each module. If they fail to actively participate in the required number of discussion forums in a timely manner, they will receive a grade of 0 (zero). Please refer to the E-tivity 3 guidance on the VLE for further details on the time frames set for contributing.

‘Active participation’ means:

Posting thoughtful, timely, and considered contributions that display engagement with the study materials (instruments, cases, videos, and/or commentary) that are relevant to the discussion topic and address the question(s) posed. Such contributions can also include:

- Responding to questions that arise during the discussion forum in your own words.
- Asking relevant questions during the discussion forum, including to the Module Convenor.
- Providing personal viewpoints concerning issues arising in the discussion forum.
- Reflecting on the discussion by providing summaries in your own words of the arguments presented by others and/or in the study materials .
- Providing pointers to relevant links or articles relating to the discussion.